Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GREIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology.

Clarifications on Statement by Minister regarding issue of Pesticide contamination in soft drinks

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the hon, Minister has made a very elaborate statement. But, even than, it is a matter of concern for all of us that in the soft drinks which are being sold in the market, the Coca-cola and all other soft drinks, the contaminated water was found. Even the organic chemicals are found, which is beyond the permissible limit. The hon. Minister has also stated that this is on the basis of the carbonated water which need to have a specification, and according to the standards fixed by the Government, it should be a packaged drinking water because the packaged drinking water is a safe drinking water, the water that has been a purified drinking water. But, unfortunately, we have found that in most of the States and in the outlets, the water used by the various agencies for supplying these soft drinks is not up to the required standard. But, unfortunately the authorities concerned have not taken any action so far.

Sir, it is heartening to note that the same issue of the contamination and also the chemical residue that was found in the sample was raised in 2003. The issue was raised in this august House and also Lok Sabha. The hon. Members had expressed their concern about it and the then hon. Minister also gave an assurance in this august House that the Government will monitor it. Sir, there was a demand in 2003 itself to ban those soft drinks which have got the contaminated material, *i.e.,* chemical